# THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**Friday, 5th July 1957.**

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at two of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

## I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

## STARRED QUESTIONS.

*Names of deities of temples in Tamil phraseology*

* 18 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased—

(*a*) to state whether the Government have issued any circular in regard to the change of names of deities of temples in appropriate Tamil phraseology and, if so, whether religious heads or pandits have been consulted before the issue of the circular; and

(*b*) to place on the table of the House a list of temples in which the names of deities have been so changed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Has any such proposal been made to Government by any organization in this regard and have Government communicated the same to the temples for action or consideration?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The Tamil Manram of Kizhachivaripatti has made this suggestion. But no communication has been sent to temples.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Sir, have Government got any authority to change the names of the deities of temples and, if so, under what constitutional head does it come?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The Government have not proposed to make any changes in names. Therefore, the question of authority does not arise.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Thank you.

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY: Sir, are the Government going to change the character of the deities also along with the change in their names? For example, take Lord Murugan. According to my friend Thiru V. Kalyanasundaram, 'Murugan' means 'இளமை'. 'Murugan' indicates perpetual youth. He is the perpetual youth. If the Government are going to make any change in the names of the deities, well, it will be objectionable from the standpoint of many people who worship Murugan.

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The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I agree with the hon. Member. But the proposal referred to here relates to the change of names of the deities of temples in appropriate Tamil phraseology. It is my own view, Sir, that before we attempt to do any such thing with the poor deities' names, names of living human beings may have to be taken up.

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : As a communication to that effect would appear to have been received by some temple authorities, e.g., Kovur in Chingleput district, may I appeal to the Hon. Minister to kindly enquire the Commissioner of Hindu Religious Endowments Department and examine the matter further?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I have this information with me. No circular has been issued by the Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments, to temple authorities in the matter. I believe the hon. Member is a trustee of that temple, and I may tell him that he is not obliged to effect any change. Perhaps he will not be authorized to make any change.

*Accident to the Mylapore temple car*

* 19 *Q.*—Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any enquiry has been held in regard to the accident to the Mylapore temple car in March 1957 and, if so, the result of such enquiry and the number of persons injured or killed; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the overhead electricity wires were found to be sagging in the locality, and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to avoid such accidents?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) No enquiry was held. It is reported that the accident occurred when the top of the temple car hit the overhead telegraph wires. Four persons were injured, three were attended to by the local doctors, as the injuries were trivial and one was admitted in the Royapetta Hospital.

(*b*) The accident occurred due to the temple car hitting the overhead telegraph wires.

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Sir, in view of the answer of the Hon. Minister, may I request the Government to issue instructions to the Electricity and Telegraphs Departments to co-operate with the temple authorities during festival times and arrange for the temporary removal of overhead wires wherever necessary?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The Government have no complaints that these authorities do not co-operate with the temple authorities in this matter. Therefore, there is no need to issue such instructions.